After lunch 2-30 p.m.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before we commence the business of the afternoon, I have to make a remark with reference to the hon. Member Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar's complaint about the alterations made in his question regarding Colonel Harley. He was informed by the Secretary that certain alterations had been made by the hon. the President and a copy of the altered question was communicated to him. The question, as altered, was also included in Notice No. 9, a copy of which was duly despatched to him. That must have been on the 29th of January. Since then there was no reply or complaint from him as regards the alteration in the question. And, inasmuch as he was distinctly informed that the alterations had been made by the order of the hon. the President, they should not have been referred to as mutilations by the Council Office. I am perfectly willing to consider any representation by hon. Members regarding modifications suggested in their questions."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" I am only speaking from memory subject to correction. I have no doubt received the communication which you have referred to. But my impression is that only a portion of my question was intended to be omitted and that there were certain others which were intended to be allowed. That is my impression. All the same, I will look into the papers once again and, if necessary, write to the Secretary."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is all right."

II

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table * the proceedings of the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth meetings of the Finance Committee for 1923-24, dated 29th, 30th and 31st January and 4th February 1924, respectively.

III

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1923-24.

Grant I.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I should like to rise to a point of order, whether this day having been set apart by His Excellency for non-official business any official business can be transacted. I submit that the demand for supplementary grants is an official business. I would submit respectfully that Rule 6 of the Legislative Council Rules says :

'The Governor, after considering the state of business of the Council, shall, at the commencement of each Session, allot as many days as are in his opinion compatible with the public interests for the business of non-official Members in the Council, and may from time to time during the Session alter such allotment, and on these days such business shall have precedence. At all other times Government business shall have precedence.'

'I submit, therefore, that to-day having been set apart for non-official business, and there being non-official business on the agenda not disposed of and ready for disposal, official business should yield precedence to non-official

* Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 475-486 infra.